

other coworkers in the break room climb up into a false ceiling. Only after they had climbed into the ceiling did Victor try and do the same but fell. Before he knew it, terrorists stormed into the break room and took him hostage.

They tied up his hands and feet. The next day the terrorists placed a ring of explosives around his neck before loading him into a vehicle to take him to another part of the gas plant. Victor never made it—the terrorists blew him up along the way.

We may like to think so, but none of us really know if we would put others before ourselves if we were faced with a life or death situation like Victor was. But we know what Victor did. We know what he chose. In all, Victor's quick thinking and acts of selflessness helped save the lives of four of his coworkers.

Selflessness wasn't something that all of a sudden came upon Victor in this moment either. It marked him as a man, a brother, a husband, and a father. Selflessness was a part of who he was. No, this ultimate trial simply exposed what was already there. Victor was a man who lived his life serving others. So it was only fitting that in his final hours, we were blessed to see one last and heroic act of selflessness in Victor's life.

Victor is survived by his wife, Maureen, and his two children, Erin and Grant. To his family I want to say that my thoughts and prayers are with you on this painful day. We have not forgotten your heroic husband and father.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes:

H. Res. 40, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this bill.

H. Res. 40, Rule Providing for consideration of both H.R. 78—SEC Regulatory Accountability Act and H.R. 238—Commodity End-User Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on this bill.

H.R. 39, TALENT Act of 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on January 11, 2017, I missed three votes in order to attend the testimony of my colleagues Sen. BOOKER and Rep. LEWIS in opposition to the confirmation of Sen. SESSIONS for Attorney General. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question, NO on H. Res. 40, and YES on H.R. 39, the TALENT Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for roll call vote 32 on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 32.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed votes on H.R. 5, the Regulatory Accountability Act on Wednesday, January 11, 2017. I had intended to vote "no" on Roll Call vote 35, "no" on vote 36, "yes" on vote 37, "yes" on vote 38, "yes" on vote 39, "yes" on vote 40, "yes" on vote 41, "yes" on vote 42, "yes" on vote 43, "yes" on vote 44, and "no" on vote 45.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I erroneously voted "yes" on roll call vote 36, an amendment to H.R. 5 offered by Mr. Peterson of Minnesota. I intended to vote "no" on the amendment.

HESPERIA PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEMBER REBEKAH SWANSON

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10 years of service of outgoing Hesperia Parks and Recreation Board Member Rebekah Swanson. Rebekah was elected to the Hesperia City Council this past November and is stepping down from her current position on the board.

Rebekah was first elected to the Hesperia Parks and Recreation Board in 2006. Since that time, Rebekah has vociferously fought to improve the quality of recreation programs within the city, culminating in the construction of competition level soccer fields. She also championed better utilization of Hesperia's Civic Park and spearheaded improvements to all of the parks throughout the district. Perhaps her most impressive achievement was that she, along with her colleagues on the board, accomplished these important projects without raising taxes or exceeding the district's budget.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to thank Rebekah for her

leadership and tireless advocacy for the people of Hesperia. I look forward to working closely with her in her new role as a member of the Hesperia City Council.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TYRUS WONG

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Tyrus Wong—father, artist, and an inspirational American—who passed away on Friday, December 30, 2016.

Tyrus was born as Wong Gen Yeo on October 25, 1910 in Guangdong Province, China. A decade later, he and his father came to the United States in search of a better economic future. Forced to travel under the false identity Look Tai Yow, Tyrus and his father were able to overcome the obstacles of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 through luck and perseverance. They began in San Francisco, were separated shortly, but reunited and moved to Sacramento where his teacher Americanized "Tai Yow" to "Tyrus".

They eventually arrived in Los Angeles, where his father taught him art and trained him in calligraphy. While in junior high, Tyrus's drawing talent was recognized by a teacher who helped him receive a summer scholarship to the Otis Art Institute (located in my district) in Los Angeles. He found his calling and studied there for five years while working as a janitor before graduating in the 1930s.

Among friends, Tyrus founded the Oriental Artists' Group of Los Angeles to provide an opportunity for artists to exhibit their work, which was unparalleled exposure for Asian artists during that time. This group was dispersed, however, during World War II.

Before joining Disney in 1938, Tyrus was an artist for the Works Progress Administration from 1936 to 1938. Tyrus's moment came in the late 1930s when Disney started working on the now famous movie Bambi. Inspired by the landscape paintings of the Song Dynasty, he painted the masterpiece that Bambi became. While he was unofficially promoted to the rank of inspirational sketch artist, he contributed much more and influenced the movie from all aspects.

In 1941, Disney fired Tyrus after the employees' strike. From 1942, Tyrus was employed at Warner Brothers before he retired in 1968. In retirement, Tyrus continued to create art and was famous for building beautiful kites. He also created cards for Hallmark and painted Asian-inspired designs on dinnerware. As a testament to Tyrus's impressive work, Disney honored him in 2001 with the prestigious Disney Legend.

Tyrus is survived by his three daughters, Kay Fong, Tai-Ling Wong, and Kim Wong and two grandchildren. I hope his family can rest knowing his story is an inspiration for all Americans. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Tyrus Wong's incredible and resilient life.